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REPORT [REDACTED]

COUNTRY USSR 25X1A

DATE DISTR. 10 May 1954

SUBJECT Soviet Nerve Gases

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DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED] 25X1A

REFERENCES: Supplement [REDACTED]

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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25X1X 1. [REDACTED] requested to repeat his experience in connection with the Central Chemical Ground (Tsentral'nyy khimicheskly poligon) near Moscow, he was unable to locate it any more precisely than he related earlier [REDACTED]

2. Upon explanation of the testing of Tabun on the rabbit, he stated that with the group of students disposed in a horseshoe arrangement, he was himself an estimated 150 yards from the transparent, cubic demonstration case and the demonstrating officer. Although the officer wore a gas mask, [REDACTED] in view of the gas mask and the nature of the chemical agent it would have been a good idea to wear gloves of some sort.

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25X1X 3. When demonstrating the effectiveness of the Tabun, the officer opened the case door and sprinkled the liquid from the container. [REDACTED]

a. The container was not the same one shown to the class earlier with other examples of CW agents.

b. In illustrating the "sprinkling", [REDACTED] to those involved in sprinkling water on clothes prior to ironing.

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c. There appeared to be neither an attempt to drench the rabbit nor to avoid contacting the rabbit with the liquid. It was distinctly possible that the rabbit was contacted directly by the liquid.

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4. The door was then immediately closed as the officer recapped the container. The rabbit then, in rapid succession, sat up as though alerted, jumped first at one wall then another, then fell on the floor of the cage giving a few violent jerks before lying still. At this point the lecturing officer said, "See it is dead." There was no further examination of the animal. [REDACTED] 25X1X  
the time for the rabbit's actions consumed a matter of only a few seconds. He was certain that it was nothing of the order of 30 seconds or more, but "momental'no".
- 25X1X 5. When asked if the Tabun used in the demonstration was actually the same Tabun captured from the Germans at the end of World War II, [REDACTED] stating that earlier another officer told them: "We have our own domestic Tabun types which are even much stronger than the German Tabun," and that only a very small dose (ochen' malen'kaya doza) was effective. [REDACTED] 25X1X  
expand upon the above statements regarding "Tabun types", nor say where they were produced, by whom, nor for how long they had been in production. He could not even state with certainty that any plants he had seen in the USSR were chemical plants per se. All plants were heavily guarded, many underground and they were seldom 25X1X  
identified to anyone not concerned with them.
6. In enumerating the chemical agents displayed to the class, [REDACTED] added hydrocyanic acid (sinil'naya kislota) to those already reported. This was said to belong to one of two classes of CW agents coming under the headings SOV (Stoykoe otravlyayushchiye veshchestvo) and NOV (Nestoykoe otravlyayushchiye veshchestvo) /persistent and non-persistent chemical agents, respectively/ of which hydrocyanic acid belonged to the latter class.
- 25X1X 7. When asked what munitions they were told were employed with this agent, [REDACTED] from aircraft. Although he never saw any devices for or on aircraft for this purpose, they were told it was called VAP, an abbreviation of vylivnoy aviatsionnyy pribor /sic/ and that it was known even before World War II. In reply to the question on how long the hydrocyanic acid would remain effective -- minutes, hours, days, weeks -- [REDACTED] 25X1X  
it lasted only minutes because of its small atomic weight (Malen'kiy atomnyy ves). /Interrogator's Note: This implies that at the time of the discussions -- July 1952 -- the HCN had not been 25X1X  
successfully thickened to prolong its effectiveness./
- 25X1X 8. In reference to CW agents in general and not just to Tabun, [REDACTED] volunteered that he and his classmates had been told that "should the enemies of the USSR just sprinkle them with poison chemicals, the enemy would, in turn, be drowned in them!"
9. [REDACTED] the term "nerve gas" itself had never been used in his recollection although Tabun and hydrocyanic acid were described as attacking the nervous systems of both man and animals.

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